

FOR THE ONE

MAKING A WAY
FOR THE ONE.

FOR THE ONE Part 3—The Power of Your Story **Dave Patterson** **4.3.2022**

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

Your story, your life, is a key component to introducing people to Jesus, inviting them to His House and to His Table where they will be changed for all of eternity.

[Matthew 18:12-13]

"If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search **for the one that is lost? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn't wander away!"**

The difference between a good story and a sad one is how it ends. We all love a good story with a theme of redemption.

[John 9:1-27]

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. ² “Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?”

³ “It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered. “This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some claimed that he was.

Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”

But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

¹⁰ “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

¹¹ He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

¹² “Where is this man?” they asked him.

“I don’t know,” he said.

¹³ Then they took the man who had been blind to the Pharisees, ¹⁴ because it was on the Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud and healed him. ¹⁵ The Pharisees asked the man all about it. So he told them, “He put the mud over my eyes, and when I washed it away, I could see!”

Some of the Pharisees said, “This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath.” Others said, “But how could an ordinary sinner do such miraculous signs?” So there was a deep division of opinion among them.

¹⁷ Then the Pharisees again questioned the man who had been blind and demanded, “What’s your opinion about this man who healed you?”

The man replied, “I think he must be a prophet.”

¹⁸ The Jewish leaders still refused to believe the man had been blind and could now see, so they called in his parents. ¹⁹ They asked them, “Is this your son? Was he born blind? If so, how can he now see?”

²⁰ His parents replied, “We know this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we don’t know how he can see or who healed him. Ask him. He is old enough to speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who had announced that anyone saying Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue. ²³ That’s why they said, “He is old enough. Ask him.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called in the man who had been blind and told him, “God should get the glory for this, because we know this man Jesus is a sinner.”

²⁵ He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. **One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!**”

²⁶ Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

²⁷ He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?”

FOUR ELEMENTS OF A POWERFUL STORY—

1. Jesus Initiates our Redemption Story

[John 6:44]

“No one can come to me **unless the Father who sent me draws them**, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

[John 15:16, VOICE]

You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I orchestrated all of this so that you would be sent out and bear great and perpetual fruit.

2. We Respond in Simple Obedience

We do the seemingly insignificant and God does the rest. Don’t be afraid to look foolish for the cause of Christ.

3. Our Encounter Qualifies Us to Be a Witness

An encounter with God is all the credentials you need. It’s not information but transformation. Your story is based on an encounter, and it’s powerful because it’s yours.

Witness (Greek); **martyrion** = an eyewitness - irrefutable evidence, a tangible example

4. The Telling of Your Story Becomes Someone's Invitation

FOR MONDAY—

1. Reflect on where you've been, what God has done, and where He is leading you. Write it down in a brief, easy-to-memorize version.
2. Pray for God to orchestrate opportunities for you to share your story with those around you.
3. Invite everyone on your local prayer list to attend church with you. Prepare for your special invite to your "longshot."

ACTION STEP—

WRITE YOUR STORY. Include these three elements:

- What my life was like **before** I met Jesus
- Describe your life-changing **encounter**
- What my life is like **now** (***How has my life been changed?***)

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What are some stories that have really drawn you into a conversation, or even more so, an experience that changed you?
2. What's your story, your life story or overarching narrative of how Jesus has transformed you? What are some highs and lows that have brought you to this point?
3. Who could be set free by your story? In other words, who is the One in your life that has yet to come home?
4. Why is it important to share your story? What are some of the ways you have seen, or are believing for, God to use it?

5. Why is it significant that Jesus says “I am the light of the world” to a man born blind? [John 9:1-17]
6. What are some reasons that Jesus used spit and mud to make a miracle? What implications was He making?
7. Why did Jesus rebuke Pharisees? What do you think their religiosity did to those wanting to come to faith?
8. What are four elements of a powerful story, and how do they tie in to yours? Make sure to leave small group today with a short script of your own faith journey!
9. Does God have your ‘Yes’? What does that look like for you?
10. How has God encountered you? How does the ridiculous release the supernatural, and how have you experienced or witnessed it? Do you have your redemption chapter, or what are you believing for? If appropriate within your group, pray in faith for one another.